

added. Figure 1 shows the tensile strengths of EPDM/SBR blends at high carbon black and oil loadings as a function of the concentration of the individual elastomers.

Please delete the graph following the paragraph starting on pg. 2, ln 6.

Please add the following prior to "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS:"

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a graph of the tensile strengths of EPDM/SRR blends as a function of the concentration of the individual elastomers.

Please add FIGURE 1 to the application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A polymer blend adapted to replace unblended EPDM, said polymer blend comprising:
 - a first EPDM rubber having a Mooney viscosity (ML (1+8) at 150°C) of from about 20 to about 40;
 - a conjugated diene rubber; and
 - a second EPDM rubber having a Mooney viscosity (ML (1+4) at 125°C) of from about 13 to about 27.
4. (Amended) The polymer blend of claim 1, wherein said polymer blend comprises about 60 phr to about 120 phr of said first EPDM rubber, about 10 phr to about 40 phr of said conjugated diene rubber and about 25 phr to about 45 phr of said second EPDM rubber.
5. (Amended) The polymer blend of claim 1, wherein said first EPDM rubber is an oil-extended EPDM rubber.
6. (Amended) The polymer blend of claim 5, wherein said first EPDM rubber has an ethylene content of about 58% to about 68% by weight of EPDM, a diene content of about 8.0% to about 11.5% by weight of EPDM and an oil content of about 45% to about 55% by total weight of the rubber.

7. (Amended) The polymer blend of claim 1, wherein said second EPDM rubber has an ethylene content of about 75% to about 85% by weight, a diene content of about 5% to about 10% by weight and a bimodal molecular weight distribution.

15. (Amended) A polymer blend comprising:
an oil extended first EPDM rubber having a Mooney viscosity (ML (1+8) at 150°C) of from about 20 to about 40, an ethylene content of about 58% to about 68% by weight of EPDM, a diene content of about 8.0% to about 11.5% by weight of EPDM and an oil content of about 45% to about 55% by total weight of said rubber;
a styrene-butadiene rubber;
a second EPDM rubber having a Mooney viscosity (ML (1+4) at 125°C) of from about 13 to about 27, an ethylene content of about 75% to about 85% by weight, a diene content of about 5% to about 10% by weight and a bimodal molecular weight distribution;
about 120 to about 200 phr carbon black;
about 70 to about 100 phr oil; and
a cure system comprising a combination of sulfur/tetramethylthiuram disulfide/dipentamethylenethiuram tetrasulfide/zinc dibutyldithiocarbamate/2-mercaptobenzothiazolate disulfide/N-t-butylbenzothiazole-2-sulfanimide in a phr concentration of about 1.7/0.5/1.0/0.2/2.0/1.5.

16. (Amended) A polymer blend according to claim 15, wherein said blend contains about 90 phr of said oil extended first EPDM, about 35 phr of said styrene-butadiene rubber, about 35 phr of said second EPDM, about 160 phr of said carbon black and about 80 phr of said oil.

THE OFFICE ACTION

The following objections/rejections were noted in the Office Action.

The Examiner objected to the graph on page 2. He indicated that it should be cancelled and replaced with a Figure.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the recitation in the claims of "high molecular weight" and "low molecular weight"